

**To:** Aquino, Virginia[Aquino.Virginia@epa.gov]  
**From:** Powell, Greg  
**Sent:** Wed 8/12/2015 1:56:13 PM  
**Subject:** Weekly

#### Gold King Mine Blowout-Animas River , Colorado

Powell was requested by the Region VIII Incident Commander (IC) to respond to a release of mine waste from an abandoned adit at the Gold King mine near Silverton ,Colorado. An estimated 1-3 million gallons a mine waste water discharged from the mine portal. The plume moved approximately 70 river miles to Durango and beyond. The IC has requested support for water treatment, rapid field water analysis, remediation of irrigation canals, and overall operational support. Recent data indicates that levels of heavy metals in the river system are returning to more “normal” levels. The Animas River is heavily impacted by historic mining activities and is by no means a pristine stream. Evidence of manganese and iron staining on river alluvium is widespread. The critical issue that ERT will be working on in the next few days is restoring water to the irrigation utilities. IC Craig Myers

#### Bakken Oil Testing-OHMSETT Facility

The second phase of Bakken oil testing to evaluate health and safety issues for first responders and dissolution studies for postponed until the spring of 2016. Operationally the logistics were in-place to conduct the testing in early September, 2015. Due to bureaucratic inefficiency the IA could not be modified with the Department of Interior(DOI) to change the expiration date from 6/30/15 to 9/30/16. The original IA was supposed to run through the 2016 date, but DOI unilaterally modified the date. DOI originally indicated that modifying the IA was acceptable ,but later decided a new IA would have to be prepared.

Greg Powell

USEPA-Environmental Response Team

(513)569-7533 office

(513)607-1572 cell

Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.

